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MS. LEMS-DWORKIN: My name is Carol Lems-Dworkin, L-e-m-s hyphen D-w-o-r-k-i-n. I am a citizen. I am representing myself. I am an Illinoisan. I live in Evanston. I was born in Chicago.

1... I did not come prepared to speak today, though I feel very strongly about what I want to say. I am totally opposed to the idea of bringing nuclear waste across Illinois, across any state and depositing it in the Yucca Mountains.

There are many things I would like to say, but I have a limited time. So I think I will focus on the incomprehensible variables involved in this whole project for 30 years and the unknowns, the failures that are possible between -- as far as human beings are concerned, weather, unpredictable events, leaks, human error in the form of competent and incompetent people. We've seen how many things have failed that were predicted to be okay originally and they have failed miserably.

I just want to point out one little factor. Here we are in this major hotel, a meeting planned by the United States government, and we can barely hear anybody. The mikes don't work very well. This is -- this is an example of the kinds of things that can happen, unpredictable things by experts. I assume the people here in the hotel are reliable, but this is, in my experience, the kinds of things that happen. I think we have a frightening, legitimately frightening situation here.

I saw a documentary sometime ago, not that -- within the last year on public television -- I don't know the name of the island; it was in the South Pacific, I believe -- that had been used for nuclear testing, and there were pictures of it completely sealed with concrete. People had been evacuated from the island. They could never go back.

...1 When we think that it takes 10,000 years of containment if we kept things as they are, that's so frightening. 10,000 years to reduce some of the deadliness of these wastes. I just think it's a mad idea. It is not hysterical. It's a mad idea.

That's all I can say right now.